





JOHN GALLAGHER, SARAH  
ROBINSON AND ELVIRIA  
BRITTINGHAM



John Gallagher was born December 14, 1809, in Liverpool, England, son of Thomas Gallagher and Ann Stephensen.

He married Sarah Robinson, from which union issued three children: Thomas, John William, and Emma.

Married to Mary Elviria Brittingham. Children: Ephraim, Mary Elviria, and eleven other children not listed.

John Gallagher's parents came from Ireland. He had two brothers, William and Edward. He grew to manhood in England, working at his trade of tailor. He was a very good one. He loved drama and acted on some of the largest stages. He played in the early theaters in Utah and was one of the leading men in their company. He was outstanding in drama. A very fine penman, in England he did much of the scribes for them. He kept a place for people who belonged to the Church. They could find hiding and a place to eat and sleep. He heard of the Prophet Joseph Smith and of his

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teachings and became converted and was baptized. He managed a mission house for the Elders. His greatest desire was to come to America. After many delays he, with his wife and children, set sail. He married Sarah Robinson of his parish in the Church of St. Martins-in-the-Fields, Liverpool, in the county of Lancaster, in 1839.

They went into Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where they lived awhile. Then they moved to St. Louis, Missouri. Later they went to New Orleans, where he left his family to go to St. Louis, Missouri, to see if he could get located in his business as a tailor. He found things in St. Louis very good, so he sent for his little family. Accordingly he met the boat and he was handed the three small children. They didn't know what had become of the mother, as she boarded the boat with them. Some of the workers on board had heard a splash, as if a body were falling in the water. They thought the mother had got up to attend the children and had fallen into the river. This was a blow to grandfather.

He met Mary Elviria Brittingham (my grandmother) at the St. Louis mission, where she embraced the gospel and was baptized. They seemed to be meant for each other, and were married. She had seven children. This totaled 10 children in the family. They had 13 children born to them. Grandmother said he was so good to her and her children that he made a heaven on earth for them. He began to make plans to come to Utah, so they could be with the saints. They left St. Louis in the fall of 1863, traveling with the Captain Herber company, and walked all the way.

Their clothes were made of gray homespun linesey. He was a tailor by profession. He was the first official postmaster of Heber, delivering letters from house to house free of charge. He kept the county records and was prominent in civic affairs. He took out his citizenship at the age of 42. He had to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign power, prince, state and sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the queen of Great Britain and Ireland.

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